PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 8103-7PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/CA 02/01624	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 28.10.2002	Priority date *(day/month/year)*
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B60R25/00		
Applicant MARQUAGE ANTIVOL SHERLOCK, INC. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

   ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

   These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

   - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
   - II ☐ Priority
   - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
   - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
   - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
   - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
   - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
   - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
28.05.2004	12.11.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840	Authorized Officer Wauters, J Telephone No. +49 30 25901-523

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/CA 02/01624

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17))*:

Description, Pages

1, 3-13	as originally filed
2, 2a	received on 27.09.2004 with letter of 22.09.2004

Claims, Numbers

1-13	received on 27.09.2004 with letter of 22.09.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4	as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language,** all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

   ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

   ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

   ☐ contained in the international application in written form.

   ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

   ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

   ☐ the description, pages:

   ☐ the claims, Nos.:

   ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

   (Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

   see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:
   D1: DE 42 01 894 A

2. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows a vehicle theft preventing method, whereby barcodes are used as vehicle identification markings. Police and customs can read these codes by means of a handheld barcode reader, which has an internal memory with a list of stolen vehicles.

2.1. The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known vehicle theft preventing method in that it uses an online system to check the list of stolen vehicles, it establishes a network of service centres, where the identity of the vehicle and its owner are checked online, which creates a certificate (for the insurance), checks damages and automatically informs the police/customs.

2.2. The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3. The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as following: the list of stolen vehicles is not up to date, nor is the system usable for insurance companies.

3.1. The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:
The use of an online system, establishing a network of service centres or issuing certificates is not rendered obvious in the prior art.

4. Claims 2-13 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

5. Furthermore the claims 1-13 are industrial applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).

PORTABLE ABRASIVE BLASTING GUN ASSEMBLY which issued to Jodoin on June 23,1987, and 4,048, 918, entitled STENCILING APPARATUS AND IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM which issued to Peck on September 20,1977. Permanent markings on the insured vehicle give the insurer an opportunity to establish the existence of the insurance coverage of the marked vehicles and therefore provides a deterrent effect to thieves who will be unable to obtain top dollar for those vehicles which can be so easily identified.

Reference is also made to German Patent DE 42 01 894 A1 which discloses a system employing the stenciling apparatus as above disclosed by Applicant's previous patents. However, that system is not as elaborate and does not provide security when processing information on used vehicles as well as new vehicles and wherein in the processing the information is circulated between Insurance Companies, Police Departments and National Custom Departments wherein to provide security to the client and to identify previously stolen vehicles. Also, there is a need to provide a certification after such verifications and therefore a client requires immediate temporary certification from the service center as well as an official certification after processing of all collected information and verification.

Nevertheless, there are continuing efforts to develop a better method of preventing theft of vehicles using intensive marking and there is a need for a method of providing vehicle anti-theft services to clients.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One object of the present invention is to provide a method of preventing theft of vehicles using intensive markings which are permanently marked on insured vehicles.

Another object of the present invention is directed to a method of preventing theft of vehicles by providing anti-theft services to clients through a service network.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, a method of preventing theft of vehicles using intensive marking comprises the steps of: establishing a service network including a service center having a databank for data processing and storage, and at least one service station providing anti-theft service to clients; at the service station, verifying and collecting information on markings marked on a plurality of parts of a vehicle and identification

CLAIMS,

1. A method for preventing theft of vehicles using intensive marking comprising the steps of:

i) establishing a service network including a service center having a databank for data processing and storage, and at least one service station providing anti-theft marking service to clients;

ii) effecting permanent markings of an alphanumerical code at said service station, and verifying and collecting information on said markings, said markings being effected on a plurality of parts of a vehicle, said marking containing identification information of a client owning the vehicle and wherein said alphanumerical code used the IATA codes to identify a country of origin of said vehicle which allows cross-referencing with the vehicle identification number thereof, and at least one part of the vehicle having a visible logo identifying the anti-theft service;

iii) sending the collected information from the service station to the databank of the service center through a computer link;

iv) at the service center, processing and storing the received information;

v) linking the databank of the service network to the at least one service station, the insurance company, a police department and the national customs department, characterized in that there is further provided the steps of:

vi) issuing a temporary certificate corresponding with the vehicle, to the client and an insurance company;

vii) identifying used vehicles from new vehicles and imputing any physical damage of said used vehicle into said databank;

viii) storing for further reference said temporary certificate with said service network;

ix) processing collected information associated with said alphanumerical codes and transmitting same to said police department and customs department for verification and recordal; and

x) issuing an official certificate to said clients by said service network.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the intensive marking alphanumerical code identifies a region of origin of an owner of the vehicle.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the intensive marking alphanumerical code uses an international coding system for identifying the region of origin of the owner.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the intensive marking alphanumerical code is engraved on surfaces of the parts of the vehicle.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a step of installing the markings, including the intensive marking alphanumerical code and the visible logo, on the vehicle at the service station when the vehicle does not have the markings.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising a step of communicating with the service center to ensure that the intensive marking alphanumerical code provided to the vehicle does not match any existing intensive marking alphanumerical code stored in the databank.

7. A method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising steps of installing the markings on motor parts and installing the markings on external parts of the vehicle.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein not less than 50 parts of the vehicle are provided with the markings.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising sending a request for a temporary certificate from the service station to the service center when the vehicle already has the intensive marking alphanumerical code and the logo thereon.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9 further comprising steps of verifying the intensive marking alphanumerical code and logo on the individual motor parts and external parts of the vehicle upon the receipt of the temporary certificate from the service center.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising adding the intensive marking alphanumerical code to a number of selected un-marked parts of the vehicle.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a step of adding the logo to a number of selected un-marked parts of the vehicle.

13. A method as claimed in claim 4 further comprising a step of obtaining signatures of the client and an agent of the service station on the certificate upon the completion of the verification and collection of the information and the inspection of the existing damages of the vehicle.